

REMARKS

The present application was filed on September 26, 2003 with claims 1 through 24. Claims 1 through 24 are presently pending in the above-identified patent application.

In the Office Action, the Examiner claims 1-24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Boyer et al. (United States Application Publication Number 2005/0068167 A1).

Claims 1-24

Claims 1-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Boyer et al.

Applicants note that Boyer was published on March 31, 2005, and will have an effective date as prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) of September 26, 2003 which is the filing date of the present application. Applicants also note that the Boyer patent application is related to the present application and was identified as such on page 1, lines 5-10, of the present application.

Thus, claims 1-24 cannot be rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Boyer et al. Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of this rejection under section 102(e).

If any outstanding issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

The Examiner's attention to this matter is appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,



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